

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for reducing pain sensation, ~~the method~~
comprising the steps of:

applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anhydrous gel anesthetic formulation
~~according to claim 1~~ consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group
consisting of procaine, lidocaine and tetracaine;

a skin penetration enhancer;

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of:
preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and

an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics,
anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants,
anticonvulsants, antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators,
calcium channel blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors,
immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators,
and vitamins;

to the area of an individual's skin to be anesthetized; and

allowing the gel anesthetic to remain in contact with the area for a period of time
sufficient to reduce pain sensation.

20. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 19 further~~ A method for reducing pain sensation comprising the step of: applying a therapeutically effective amount of an anesthetic formulation consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine and tetracaine;

a skin penetration enhancer comprising benzyl alcohol;

a volatile co-solvent;

with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics, anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins;
~~comprising a topical anesthetic compound, a skin penetration enhancer and a volatile co-solvent,~~
to the area to be anesthetized.

21-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A method of local anesthesia comprising the step of applying to intact skin or oral mucosa ~~the formula of claim 1~~ a topical anesthetic consisting of:

in an anhydrous mixture at least one anesthetic compound selected from the group consisting of procaine, lidocaine, tetracaine;

a skin penetration enhancer;

a gelling agent with an optional ingredient selected from the group consisting of: preservative, fragrance, buffer, and an emollient; and

an optional therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: analgesics, anxiolytic compounds, antiarrhythmics, antibacterials, antibiotics, anticoagulants, anticonvulsants, antifungals, antihistamines, anti-inflammatories, antivirals, bronchodilators, calcium channel blockers, cytotoxics and anticancer agents, cytokines, growth factors, immunosuppressives, muscle relaxants, psychotherapeutics, sympathomimetics, vasodilators, and vitamins.

25. (New) The formulation of claim 19, wherein lidocaine is present from 0.5-6 total weight percent.

26. (New) The formulation of claim 19, wherein said skin penetration enhancer is present from 25 to 45 total weight percent.

27. (New) The formulation of claim 19 wherein the gelling agent is a cellulosic polymer.

28. (New) The formulation of claim 19 wherein the therapeutic agent is an anti-itch.

29. (New) The formulation of claim 24, wherein lidocaine is present from 0.5-6 total weight percent.

30. (New) The formulation of claim 24, wherein said skin penetration enhancer is present from 25 to 45 total weight percent.